

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 5, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 8, 11, and 22 are hereby amended. Claims 3-5, 7-11, 13-15, 17-23 and 27-37 remain pending in this application, with claims 27-37 having been withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 3-5, 7-11, 13-15 and 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,912,920 to Kubota (hereinafter "Kubota").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 8 and request reconsideration. Independent claim 8, as amended, is allowable in that it recites "a polarizer holder supporting said plurality of quartz substrate parts, wherein the polarizer holder includes a material having an optical absorptivity of almost 100%, and wherein the polarizer holder absorbs light reflected by the plurality of quartz substrate parts." Nothing in Kubota teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 8, and its dependent claims 3-5, 7, and 9-10, are allowable over Kubota.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 11 and request reconsideration. Independent claim 11 is allowable in that it recites "a polarizer holder supporting the quartz substrate part, wherein the polarizer holder includes a material having an optical absorptivity of almost 100%, and wherein the polarizer holder absorbs light reflected by the quartz substrate part." Nothing in Kubota teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 is allowable over Kubota.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 22 and request reconsideration. Independent claim 22 is allowable in that it recites "a polarizer holder supporting said plurality of quartz substrate parts, wherein the polarizer holder includes a material having an optical absorptivity of almost 100%, and wherein the polarizer holder absorbs light reflected by the plurality of quartz substrate parts." Nothing in Kubota teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 22, and its dependent claims 13-15, 17-21, and 23, are allowable over Kubota.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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